



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 40900 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0900
(360) 725-5444 • (360) 725-5456

April 15, 2006

To: All those interested in the protection and conservation of Puget Sound

Re: Public Review of 2007-2009 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan*

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present the first draft of the 2007-2009 *Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* for public review and comment. The Puget Sound Action Team and Puget Sound Council invite you to review the document and provide comments by May 15, 2006.

One of the Action Team's jobs is to develop and carry out a shared conservation agenda for Puget Sound for each two-year budget cycle (biennium) of the state. This document is the first draft of that agenda for the biennium that begins July 1, 2007 and ends June 30, 2009.

We are coordinating development of this biennial plan very closely with the Puget Sound Partnership, a public-private body created by Gov. Chris Gregoire in December 2005. The Partnership's core assignment is to develop a 2020 Action Agenda to reach a healthy Puget Sound by 2020, and to make recommendations on how to build the needed public engagement and support, appropriate organizational structures, and the funding to reach that ambitious target. We plan to integrate the Partnership's substantive recommendations on the 2020 agenda into this plan where appropriate. We will also share the input we receive in development of this plan with the Partnership.

For the coming biennium, the Action Team has identified the following critical priorities for our work to protect and restore Puget Sound:

- Clean up contaminated sites and sediments
- Prevent toxic contamination
- Prevent harm from stormwater runoff
- Prevent nutrient and pathogen pollution
- Protect functioning nearshore and freshwater habitats
- Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitats

- Conserve and recover species at risk
- Prepare for and adapt Puget Sound efforts to climate change

We need your input to help us build the *2007-2009 Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan*. Your comments will help inform each step in the process, including the state agencies' strategic planning and development of their budgets. We will submit the plan to the Governor and the legislature in Fall 2006 for their use as they build and adopt a budget for the 2007-2009 biennium.

Please send your comments to the attention of Gigi Williams, by 5 p.m. on May 15, 2006 by one of the following:

US Mail: Puget Sound Action Team
P.O. Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-0900

Express: 210 11th Avenue SW, 4th floor, Suite 401
Olympia, WA 98501

Fax to: 360-725-5456

E-mail: gwilliams@psat.wa.gov

Following the public comment period, the Action Team staff will assist the Puget Sound Action Team and Council to prepare a summary of public comments as well as a response to comments. That will be available on our website in June 2006.

Thank you for your interest in Puget Sound conservation and recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Ack', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

Brad Ack
Director